The New Containerised Fertiliser Importation and Inspection Protocols

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Protocol Development

• Expansion of systems management practices
• All based on improving performance and managing risk offshore
• Recognition of the sustained effort and investment by industry in its endeavours to meet our common goal of providing ‘risk free’ product to our joint stakeholders
Protocol Development

- Recognition of the significant achievement by industry that has reduced risk and quarantine contamination occurrence by embracing partnerships with its suppliers through offshore quality controls
- Demonstrated clearly though the success of ‘Bulk In Ship Protocols’ by documenting performance through history of compliance

Protocol Development

- result of AQIS / Industry Partnership initiatives that embrace the ‘Quarantine Continuum’ process
- recognition that the Australian Quarantine function is a ‘Shared Responsibility’
Containerised Fertilizer Examination Project

- Early 2006, FIFA and AQIS formed a joint project team reviewing quarantine inspection protocols for containerised ‘mined and chemical fertiliser’
- Nil Contamination tolerance policy maintained
- Inspection protocols aligned with risk
- Focused on using knowledge already gained and proven in the risk assessment process and protocol structure

Result of Review

- New three level system for containerised (sounds familiar!)
  - Level 3 (high risk)
  - Level 2 (medium risk)
  - Level 1 (low risk)
Result of Review

• New FIFA Empty Container Standard
  – Recognised and extended the Quarantine Continuum process to Containers based on a higher degree of certainty of container cleanliness by using independent third parties operating under the define FIFA standard of inspection and certification.

Result of Review

• Revised on-shore contamination control strategies
  – Developed and updated the decision tree matrix for AQIS operations in Regions and Ports
  – Centralised all containerised fertiliser import permit applications and assessment for L1, L2 & L3 containerised fertiliser imports to the Bulk National Co-ordination Centre (NCC) in Newcastle
  – Industry support
Level 3 – High Risk

• Classification
  – No recognised contamination control mechanisms
  – Generic 0934 condition Import permit for all sources
  – Starting point for each supply chain to move to L2 if requested

Level 3 – High Risk

• Inspection Protocols

• Full Unpack/Inspect at Metropolitan Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) by AQIS officers
  – Inspection of all unloaded fertiliser
  – Inspection of every container after unloading
  – Minimum of 3 consignments totalling 50 containers
Level 2 – Medium Risk

Classification
- Manufacturer/container loading facility has been third party audited every twelve months (Permits issued annually)
- Manufacturer declaration provided for each consignment
- All containers third party inspected and certified
- Importer prepared by introducing L2 Standards

Level 2 – Medium Risk

Inspection Protocols
- Documents checked
- Containers move to QAP for unpack
- Product inspected at QAP by AQIS officers each day
- Minimum of 3 consignments totalling 50 containers
Level 1 – Low Risk

• Classification
  – Manufacturer/container loading facility has been third party audited every twelve months (Permits issued annually by NCC)
  – Manufacturers declaration provided for each consignment
  – All containers third party inspected and certified
  – Importer prepared by introducing L1 Standards
  – Independent third party sampling and certification

Level 1 – Low Risk

• Inspection Protocols
• Documents (including sampling) checked for compliance with permit conditions
• Containers move to Metropolitan QAP for unpack
• Inspection conducted by surveillance in QAPs
Administration

• Container / Consignment Classification
  – Importers to provide the required information specific to L1 and L2 Supply Chains to AQIS Bulk NCC with an Import Permit Application
  – Desk audit to be undertaken by AQIS NCC Newcastle against the protocols
• Manufacturer/load port
  – Onsite annual audits to be undertaken by ‘Independent Third Party Auditors’ at the request of an Australian Importer

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